SOUP

A REVIEW OF

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

1997-98

CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

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KUDOS

A REVIEW OF
FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP
& CREATIVE ACTIVITY
1997-98

CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

AND

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to congratulate the faculty on the accomplishments acknowledged in this publication and express my appreciation to the offices of the provost and public relations for bringing this project to fruition.

Kenneth L. Schwab
President of the College

CONTENTS

From the Chief Academic Officer 6
Outstanding Teaching Award 1997-98: Dr. Rodney Grunes 7
Artistic Performances and Exhibits 8
Books and Textbooks, Book Reviews 9
Published Scholarly Articles and Creative Writing 10
Scholarly Presentations 12
Awards and Honors 15
Special Humanities Award: Dr. Dana Kress 16
Scholarly Panels 17
Professional Workshops 18
Grants Received 19
Joint Research: Dr. Juan Rodriguez 20
Faculty/Student Research 22
Index 23

FROM THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Centenary College of Louisiana has a long tradition of excellence in teaching and scholarly activity stretching back to its foundation in the early 19th Century. Today, more than ever, we recognize that excellence in teaching demands matching excellence in intellectual activity. These professorial activities are mutually beneficial. As we probe the unknown of our fields, we enrich our knowledge of the discipline and enhance our ability to teach. As we teach, we come to learn the deficiencies in our knowledge that demand investigation.

Not ten years ago, Ernest Boyer of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching saw the scholarly activity of college and university professors falling into four broad categories: discovery, application, integration, and teaching. First, in spite of the great advances we have made in our understanding and knowledge, much remains unknown and great questions remain unanswered. Consequently, many Centenary College professors devote their lives to extending the bounds of their discipline by fundamental research or creative activity. Second, society has a great need to apply our ever-increasing knowledge to pressing problems. Some of our faculty members are attempting to use the knowledge of their disciplines to address these practical issues. For example, one of our physics professors and his students are exploring the use of infrared light to image brain function. Third, in spite of our tremendous store of knowledge, scholars have difficulty transmitting this knowledge from the expert to the general public. Thus, some of our faculty members integrate and synthesize their disciplinary knowledge and disseminate it widely, as seen in editorials appearing in the local newspaper of one of our professors of political science. Finally, with this burgeoning knowledge and the increasing demands on our students, we need to find ways of transmitting more efficiently our cultural inheritance. Since conveying knowledge and developing our student's ability to think are central to the mission of a liberal arts institution, many of us devote some of our efforts towards developing new methods and techniques for teaching. For example, a number of our faculty members have participated in hosting workshops on the uses of Web-based technology in the classroom, sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the South.

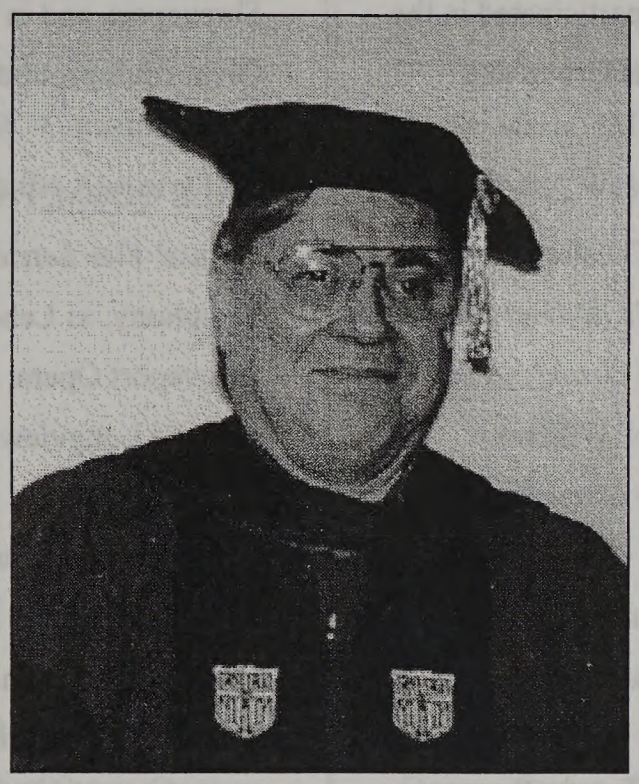
With the second edition of *Kudos*, we present the scholarly and creative achievements of our faculty for the 1997-98 academic year. Why do we prepare this document? We wish to provide our community a convenient window on the scholarly and creative activity of our colleagues. We also want to share our pride in our accomplishments with our students, alumni, board of trustees and other members of the College community. With this document I continue the commitment made by my predecessor, Dr. Robert Bareikis, to offer the next chapter in the illustrious scholarly and creative history of Centenary College of Louisiana.

Earl W. Fleck, Provost and Dean of the College

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD 1997-98

CENTENARY HONORS DR. RODNEY GRUNES

He is described as, "dynamic in the classroom," having an "engaging personality" and "intellectual zest." Dr. Rodney Grunes, Professor of Political Science and chair of the Department of History and Political Science is the Outstanding Teacher for 1998 at Centenary. The annual award is determined by a vote of the entire academic community and is given to recognize devotion to excellence in the classroom.



Having done undergraduate work at Drew University, Dr. Grunes received his master's and doctorate from Duke University. He previously taught at The Citadel, Randolph-Macon, and Rutgers University, holding the position of assistant professor of political science. He came to Centenary in 1986 from Rhodes College, where he was associate professor of political science.

"In addition to providing students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to succeed, my task as a professor is to involve students with the excitement of learning about political science and contemporary politics," Dr. Grunes says.

His colleague, Dr. John Peek, Associate Professor of Political Science, describes Dr. Grunes as "dynamic in the classroom. He keeps material current and relevant to issues of concern to college students."

Striving for excellence in and out of the classroom, Dr. Grunes is active as an advisor, as well as a mentor and has rejuvenated the pre-law society. "With the help of Dr. Grunes as advisor, members are offered insight into the world of pre-law studies that is not easy to come by," says Danielle West, a sophomore political science major.

According to Dawson Taylor, a freshman political science major, "Dr. Grunes not only challenges students to live up to their potential in the classroom, but he challenges students to live up to their potential in life. Mediocrity is simply not acceptable. He is a professor who genuinely cares about each student who comes through his classroom."

In addition to his impact on Centenary, Dr. Grunes has published articles and book reviews on freedom of expression, civil rights, the role of the Supreme Court, and church-state issues. As an editorial writer for the *Journalpage* of *The* [Shreveport] *Times*, Dr. Grunes has been awarded first place for excellence in legal journalism by the Louisiana Bar Association.

Students and colleagues alike characterize Dr. Grunes as a worthy recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award. "Professor Grunes is the model for what an outstanding professor should be," said Dr. Sam Shepherd, professor of history. "He combines high standards with an engaging personality, demanding much from his students."

Feature by Kari Johnson
Communication Major

ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITS

BRUCE ALLEN, Professor of Art, participated in the exhibits held by the Louisiana Artists Group and ArtPort VII.

ROBERT BUSEICK, Professor of Theatre and Speech, staged productions of *Angels in America*, *God's Country*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and *Grand Hotel*. He also directed the world premier of William Joyce's *The Leaf Men and the Brave Good Bugs*.

LETA CARSON, Ed and Gladys Hurley Professor of Music, performed Gaubert's *Fantasie* for the Musicians's Club.

HORACE ENGLISH, Professor of Music, performed the role of Cascada in the Shreveport Opera's production of Franz Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, of Melchior in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at St James Episcopal Church, of Don Pasquale in the Longview Repertory Opera production of Donizetti's work. He also sang the Buxtehude cantata, *Mein Herz ist bereit*, and the Romhild cantata, *Da Neue Jahr ist kommen* with the Baroque Artists of Shreveport, and in the Lake Charles Chorus and Orchestra's production of Handel's *Messiah*.

GALE ODOM, Professor of Music, performed in Strauss' *Vier Letzte Lieder* with the Marshall Symphony, as Leher in *The Merry Widow* with the Shreveport Opera, and as Norina in *Don Pasquale* with the Longview Opera.

ROSS SMITH, Assistant Professor of Music, gave solo piano recitals featuring Russian music at Michigan State University and the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He also performed Vinton's *Hunter Moon* for the Ark-La-Tex Youth Symphony.

THOMAS STONE, Assistant Professor of Music, was guest conductor for the DePauw University Wind Ensemble and University of North Texas Wind Symphony.

MARK ZELTZER, Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Music, performed and conducted master classes as part of a seven-nation, fifteen city tour.

BOOKS, EDITIONS, AND TEXTBOOKS

CHAPTERS

GEORGE NEWTOWN, Centenary College Professor of Liberal Arts, published "From St. Augustine to Paul Monette: Sex and Salvation in the Age of AIDS" in *True Relations: Essays on Autobiography and the Postmodern.* Ed. Thomas Couser and Joseph Fichtelberg, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1998.

BOOK REVIEWS

BRYAN ALEXANDER, Assistant Professor of English, published a review on *Ash of Stars: On the Writing of Samuel R. Delany* for *Utopian Studies* 8:2.

RODNEY GRUNES, Professor of Political Science, reviewed *Personal Law.*

JOHN PEEK, Associate Professor of Political Science and Arthur and Emily Webb Professor of International Studies, reviewd the following books in Choice: *Environmental Politics in Japan, Internationalism and the UN, Confucianism and Human Rights, The Politics of the New Asia Pacific,* and *Coping with a Bad Global Image: Human Rights in the People's Republic of China.*

SAMUEL SHEPHERD, Professor of History, reviewed *Policing the Southern City: New Orleans, 1805-1889* for *Louisiana History*, 39:4.

PUBLISHED SCHOLARLY ARTICLES AND CREATIVE WRITING

KENNETH AIZAWA, Charles T. Beaird Associate Professor of Philosophy, authored "Explaining Systematicity," *Mind and Language*, 12, and co-authored "Rock Beats Scissors: Historicism Fights Back," *Analysis*, 57 and "Fodor's Asymmetric Causal Dependency Theory and Proximal Projections," in *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 35.

BRYAN ALEXANDER, Assistant Professor of English, co-authored "E-COMP: A Few Words about Teaching Writing with Computers, Technological Horizons" in *Education*, Fall 1997; and "E-COMP: Observations on Teaching Writing with Computers," *Apple Education Learning Technology Review*, Spring 1998.

RONALD BUKOFF, Assistant Professor of Music, published two articles about a special collection in the Hurley Music Library: "The Wayne Sanders Broadway Sheet Music Collection at Centenary College of Louisiana," *Breve Notes" Southeast Music Libraries Association Newsletter* (January 1998): and in *Texas Quarter-Notes Newsletter* (Fall 1997).

HAROLD CHRISTENSEN, Professor of Economics and Director of the Economic Education Center; BARBARA DAVIS, Associate Professor of Accounting; and HELEN MASON, Assistant Professor of Accounting, published "Bank Performance and Local Economic Activity: The Case of Louisiana Banks," in *Southwestern Economic Review* 25:1.

HUGHES COX, Professor of Philosophy, published an article on "Rights and Responsibilities; Aristotles's Virtues and a Libertarian Dilemma," in *Contemporary Philosophy*, 18:4/5.

KATHY FELL, Associate Professor of English, authored the article "Why an English Professor at Seminary?" in *At Stake*, 2:4.

DAVID HOAAS, Associate Professor of Economics, published "Intermediate Microeconomics and Ethics: An Experimental Assessment," in *Southwestern Economic Review*, 25:1.

JOYCE JOHNSON, Assistant Professor of Psychology, co-authored "Gambling Behavior of Adolescents in Residential Placement in Northwest Louisiana," in the *Southern Medical Journal*, 91 (11). She also co-authored four studies on gambling in Indiana and one on gambling in Louisiana, which are available through the Gambling Studies Unit of the LSU School of Medicine.

GEORGE NEWTOWN, Professor of Liberal Arts, contributed to the article "Teaching Writing Through Computers: Some Insights into Redirecting Authority in the Classroom," in *Perspectives*, 28:1.

ARNOLD PENUEL, Professor of Spanish, published a review of "Un senor muy viejo con alas enormes" in the Winter edition of *Romance Notes*.

ELIZABETH RANKIN, Associate Professor of Economics, co-authored "Economists' Salaries: Differences Due to Type of Academic Institution," in *Southwestern Economic Review*, Spring 1998.

MARK SCHLATTER, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, published "A Many Permutation Group Result for Unstable Theories," in *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, 63:2.

THOMAS STONE, Assistant Professor of Music, transcripted for Daehn Publications Pierre LaPlante's *Serenade on May Day Carol* and Larry Daehn's *As Summer Was Just Beginning* and *With Quiet Courage.*

THOMAS TICICH, Assistant Professor of Chemisty, co-authored "Optical and Microscopy investigations of Soot Structure Alterations by Laser-Induced Incandescence," in *Applied Physics B*, 67.

YVONNE YAZ, Associate Professor of Mathematics, published "A New Fomulation of Some Discrete-Time Stochastic-Parameter State Estimation Problems," in *Applied Mathematics Letters*, 10:6.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

KENNETH AIZAWA, Charles T. Beaird Associate Professor of Philosophy, gave a presentation on "Cummins on Systematicity" at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

MARY BARRETT, Professor of Geology, presented "The Oil Spill of the Century: Massive Spillage in Early 20th Century United States" at OILSPILL '98.

ERNEST BLAKENEY, Velma Davis Grayson Associate Professor of Chemistry, made a presentation to the American Chemical Society on "A Modified Wittig Reaction Suitable for Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories."

RONALD BUKOFF, Assistant Professor of Music, read a paper, "The Ice Cream Man Cometh" The Librarian as Purveyor of Frozen Popular Culture," at the joint meeting of the Popular Culture Association and the American Cultural Association.

LETA CARSON, Ed and Gladys Hurley Professor of Music, produced program notes for "Flute and Friends," a recital of solo and chamber music.

HAROLD CHRISTENSEN, Professor of Economics and Director of the Economic Education Center, and ELIZABETH RANKIN, Associate Professor of Economics, co-presented "Differences in Job Satisfaction for Male and Female Academic Economists" at the Missouri Valley Association of Economists and "The Determinates of Job Satisfaction for Male and Female Economists" at the Western Social Science Association.

STEPHEN CLARK, Associate Professor of Classics and French, made a presentation to the Classical Association of the Midwest and South on "Actaeon: Victim or Voyeur?"

HUGHES COX, Professor of Philosophy, presented "The Necessity of Aristotle's Virtues for Feminist Ethics of the Workplace" at the Associated Colleges of the South Conference on Women's Studies, "Virtue and Soteriology" at the Southwest Region of the American Academy of Religion, and "Aristotle's Ordinary versus Kant's Revisionist Definition of Virtue as Habit" at the World Congress of Philosophy.

BARBARA DAVIS, Associate Professor of Philosophy, and HELEN MASON, Assistant Professor of Accounting, co-presented "Institutional Investor Preferences: A Cause for Management Concern" at the Southwest Finance Association.

LOREN DEMERATH, Assistant Professor of Sociology, gave talks on "The Importance of Pedestrian Environments for Creating Culture and Community" at Society for Social Studies of Science and "Articulation Theory: A New Conceptualization of Identity Maintenance and Commitment" at the American Sociological Association.

MARK GRUETTNER, Assistant Professor of German, discussed his paper on "Literature and Genetic Engineering" at the Philological Association of Louisiana.

SAMMYE GUENTHER, Assistant Professor of Education, presented "What Does Developmentally Appropriate Practice Have to Say to Assessment" to the Louisiana Educational Diagnosticians' Association, and co-presented "Constructing the Halls of Academe: Pedagogical Implications of Constructivism for the Multicultural Learner" at the National Conference on Higher Learning

JOYCE JOHNSON, Assistant Professor of Psychology, co-presented "Assessing Adolescent Perceptions of Gambling Risk" to the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, "Gambling Behavior in Adolescents in Juvenile Detention in Louisiana" to the Southern Medical Association and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, "Pathological Gambling in Adolescents in Louisiana" to the Navajo Nation Behavioral Health Services Conference, "A Minimal Data Set for Tracking the Effectiveness of Gambling Helplines" to Conference on Problem Gambling, "Pathological Gambling Among Louisiana Students: Grades Six Through Twelve" to the American Psychiatric Association, "How is Gambling Behavior Related to Other Addictive Behaviors in Adolescents?" to Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling, and "Gambling Behavior and Substance Abuse among Adolescents in Residential Placement in Northwest Louisiana" to the Southern Medical Association.

EARLE LABOR, George A. Wilson Professor of American Literature, presented "Teaching Archetypes – or How to Think Jung, Sangfreud" at the College English Association.

BETH LEUCK, Professor of Biology, spoke on "Evidence of Lek Behavior in the Dung Fly *Sepsis Punctum*" at the Southwest Association of Naturalists.

JERRY LISANTTI, Associate Professor of Physics, presented a paper on "Laboratories for the Second Semester Calculus-Based Physics Course" to the American Association of Physics Teachers.

HELEN MASON and DON WILCOX co-presented "Linking Rings: An Application of the Team Teaching Concept for Undergraduate Corporate Finance and Investments" at the Southwestern Business Teaching Symposium, Southwestern Finance Association, and Eastern Finance Association.

GEORGE NEWTOWN, Centenary College Professor of Liberal Arts, presented "Revelations of 'Mr. Secrets': Richard Rodriguez and Postmodern Autobiography" to the Philological Association of Louisiana.

JOHN PEEK, Associate Professor of Political Science and Arthur and Emily Webb Professor of International Studies, spoke on "Japan and the United Nations: The Early Years" at the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies and "SGI: Japan's Premier NGO" at the Louisiana Political Science Association.

BARRIE RICHARDSON, Samuel Guy Sample Professor of Business Administration and Dean of the Frost School of Business, made presentations on "Managing with Metaphors" to the Southwest Teaching Symposium and "Why Smart People Make Bad Economic Decisions" to Southwest Finance Association.

JUAN RODRIGUEZ, Associate Professor of Physics, gave presentations on high-bandwidth optical tomograpy at the University of Wisconsin workshop for Medical Physics and at the Optical Society of America.

MARK SCHLATTER, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, spoke on "Extensions of Results of Shelah and Morley to Permutation Groups" to the Canadian Mathematical Society.

ROSS SMITH, Assistant Professor of Music, gave lecture recitals on Rachmaninoff's Piano Sonata No. 1 in D Minor: The Faust Connection at Michigan State University and a meeting of the Greater Shreveport Music Teachers' Association.THOMAS TICICH, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, made a presentation entitled "Can Soot Particle Size be Determined Using Laser-Induced Incandescence?" to the American Chemical Society.

JEFF TRAHAN, Cornelius D. and Florence Gillard Keen Professor of Physics, co-presented "Combined Inertial and Boundary Effects on the Low Reynolds Number Drag of a Disk or Sphere" at the Louisiana Academy of Sciences.

SCOTT VETTER, William C. Woolf Associate Professor of Geology, was a co-presenter of "Basaltic Volcanism of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Eruptive Center" at the Geological Society of America and "The Snake River Plain-Yellowstone Track: A Overview of a Continental Plume Track" at the Louisiana Academy of Science.

YVONNE YAZ, Associate Professor of Mathematics, spoke on "LMI Based Analysis of a Class of Nonlinear Stochastic Systems" at the American Control Conference.

AWARDS AND HONORS

BRUCE ALLEN, Professor of Art, was awarded an Individual Artist's Grant from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for a performance of *Burnt Secrets*.

DAVID BIELER, Associate Professor of Geology, received a Mellon Technology Fellowship for summer research ($2,500).

ROBERT BUSEICK, Professor of Theatre and Speech, received *The* [Shreveport] *Times* Drama Awards for his productions of *Angels in America* and *Funny Girl*.

STEPHEN CLARK, Associate Professor of Classics and French, was selected to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar on "The Augustan Age" at the University of Texas.

RODNEY GRUNES, Professor of Political Science, was selected for *Who's Who Among American Teachers* and received an Excellence in Legal Journalism Award from the Louisiana State Bar Association. He contributed 50 editorials to the *Journalpage*, of *The* [Shreveport] *Times* during the course of the year.

SUE HERNANDEZ, Assistant Professor of Education, was asked to speak to K-6 parent organizations and educators in Mansfield, Logansport, Gilliam, Bossier, and Shreveport on teaching reading.

JOYCE JOHNSON, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was nominated to *Who's Who Among America's College Teachers*.

DANA KRESS, Assistant Professor of French, was appointed to the state of Louisiana taskforce for Francofete 1999 and invited to speak at the Baudelaire Symposium at Vanderbilt University.

GALE ODOM, Professor of Music, was elected to the board of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and appointed to the office of treasurer of the organization.

BARRIE RICHARDSON, Samuel Guy Sample Professor of Business Administration and Dean of the School of Business, was listed as a faculty in management expert in the Heritage Foundation Directory.

SAMUEL SHEPHERD, Professor of History, was selected for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

THOMAS STONE, Assistant Professor of Music, received the Prevailing Winds Award for Service.

THOMAS TICICH, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, had his summer research fellowship renewed by NASA ($16,470).

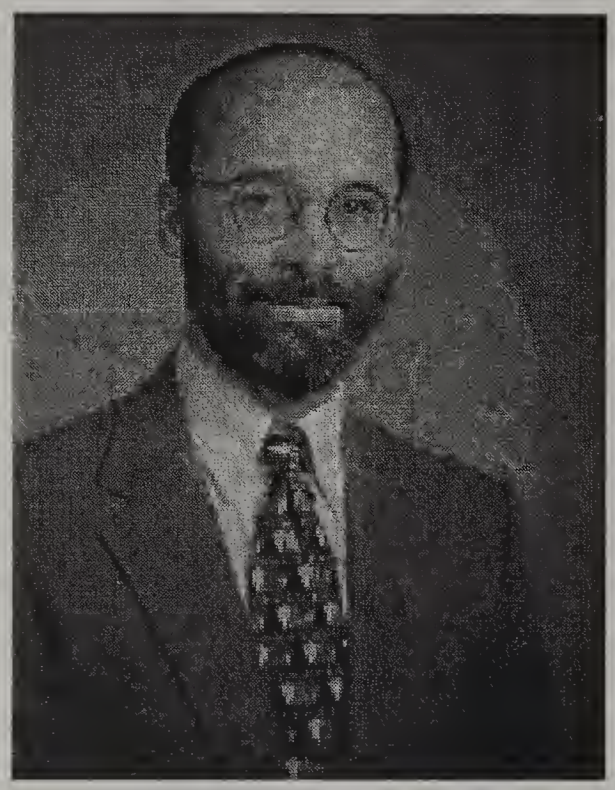
YVONNE YAZ, Associate Professor of Mathematics was selected for *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

MARK ZELTZER, Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Music, was a special guest at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

SPECIAL HUMANITIES AWARD 1998

LEH HONORS PROFESSOR DANA KRESS

Dr. Dana Kress, Associate Professor of French at Centenary College, received a Special Humanities Award from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities at its annual awards banquet on April 7, 1998 at the Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge.



The award recognizes the major contribution to the humanities in Louisiana that Dr. Kress has made as a scholar in various Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities programs. Included in these contributions are his groundbreaking research on artist Jean Despujols and his articles in *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*.

Upon receiving his Ph.D. in French from Vanderbilt University in 1992, Dr. Kress came to Centenary as an assistant professor of French. He has worked extensively with the Despujols collection at the Meadows Museum of Art and has established *Le Tintamarre*, Centenary's acclaimed French newspaper, which is produced entirely by students. He established the Theodore Beck Award for the outstanding senior French major, and helped secure several CODOFIL (Council for the Development of French in Louisiana) and Belgian government scholarships for Centenary students. In 1995, Dr. Kress published *The Orlando Legend in Nineteenth-Century French Literature*, a major contribution to the field.

Other awards and grants received by Dr. Kress include a grant from the Shreveport Art Guild for photographic documentation of the Despujols collection, the Centenary Alumni Research Grant to fund research on Despujols, and the Outstanding Teaching Award at Centenary in 1997 and at Vanderbilt in 1989.

His LEH award was one of three Special Awards made in 1998.

SCHOLARLY PANELS

RODNEY GRUNES, Professor of Political Science, participated on the panel for the Newcomers Workshop: Pre-Law Advising at a small Liberal Arts College at the Southern Association of Prelaw Advisors.

GALE ODOM, Professor of Music, served as auditions chair for the North Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

STEVEN SHELBURNE, Associate Professor of English, chaired sessions on Southern and World Literature at the Philological Association of Louisiana.

THOMAS STONE, Assistant Professor of Music, attended a workshop offered by the Wind Studies Collegium.

JULIA THORN, Assistant Professor of Music, served as a judge for the Georgia Music Education District Four Choral Festival.

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

MARY BARRETT, Assistant Professor of Geology, attended an Interdisciplinary WWW Pilot Project Workshop and Environmental Studies Curriculum Workshop sponsored by Associate Colleges of the South.

HUGHES COX, Professor of Philosophy, attended an Associated Colleges of the South workshop on Environmental Studies.

MARK GRUETTNER, Assistant Professor of German, participated in the Foreign Language across the Curriculum Workshop at Birmingham-Southern.

JOYCE JOHNSON, Assistant Professor of Psychology, attended a WWW Workshop sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the South.

GEORGE NEWTOWN, Professor of English, took part in the Associated Colleges of the South's workshop on "Teaching Computer Literacy for the 21st Century," and served on the instructional staff of the Associated Colleges of the South's Teaching/Learning Workshop.

MARK SCHLATTER, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, attended the "Calculus and Technology" workshop organized by Associated Colleges of the South.

ROSS SMITH, Assistant Professor of Music, participated in a workshop on Alfredo Casella: An Untapped Source of Literature sponsored by the Greater Shreveport Music Teachers' Association.

JULIA THORN, Assistant Professor of Music, participated in the Hinshaw Coral Celebration Workshop.

GRANTS RECEIVED

BRUCE ALLEN, Professor of Art, obtained grant funding for a Bronze Casting Workshop and Exhibition ($10,000).

MARY BARRETT, Assistant Professor of Geology, received funding from the Louisiana Board of Regents' LEQSF Program for Field-Based Aquatic Education and Undergraduate Research: An Environmental Science Program Theme at Centenary College ($32,000).

KATHY FELL, Associate Professor of English, co-authored a proposal to Houston Endowment for campus computerization ($110,000).

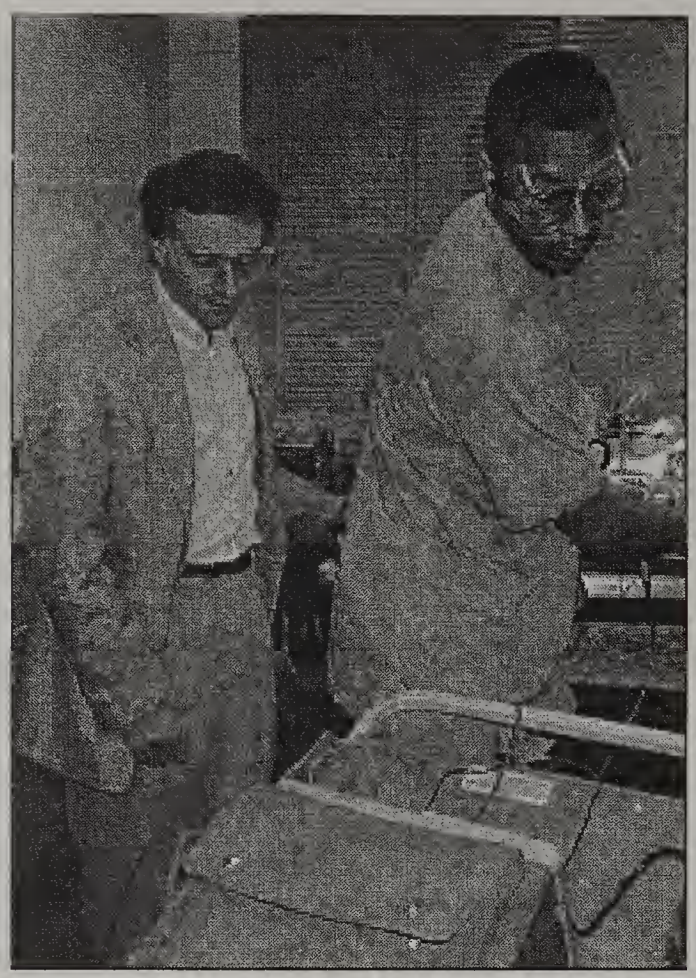
DANA KRESS, Assistant Professor of French, obtained a $1,000 grant from the Lion's Club of France for the student newspaper *Tintamarre.*

JULIA THORN, Assistant Professor of Music, received teaching materials valued at $3,500 from the publishing companies of Silver Burdett, MacMillan, and Glencoe.

JOINT RESEARCH WITH LSUMC, BIOMED

PROFESSOR RODRIGUEZ STUDIES PROTOTYPE INSTRUMENT

A novel way to pinpoint oxygen deficiency inside the body is on the drawing board and ready to be developed. The instrument -- a Probe Laser Oxygenation Tomograph or PLOT -- could significantly help researchers to detect and treat stroke, ischemic bowel disease and other circulatory diseases.



Louisiana State University Medical School in Shreveport and the Biomedical Research Foundation have co-funded a grant of $15,000 to Dr. Juan Rodriguez, Associate Professor of Biophysics at Centenary College, to build and test a prototype instrument.

"The prototype will test the feasibility of a new method of imaging tissue oxygenation deep inside the body in a non-invasive way. The information derived, coupled with the potential portability and affordability of the instrumentation, could provide an important alternative to other forms of tomography currently available," Rodriguez said.

Dr. Harold Battarbee, a physiology professor at the LSU Medical Center, described the project as having "incredible potential," and went on to say, "If someone has a stroke . . . you would have the ability to intervene early and with the appropriate treatment. You would have something to put in an ambulance with a signal uplinked to a satellite and downlinked to a hospital for early detection and treatment of stroke."

Drs. Battarbee and Rodriguez had discussed Dr. Rodriguez's idea during a recent lunch meeting, and then captured the interest of the Biomedical Research Foundation, and Dr. Neil Granger, Associate Dean for Research at LSU Medical Center.

"Dr. Rodriguez's imaging instrument has many basic science applications," Granger said. "I am particularly excited at how it provides information about the amount of oxygen in cells.

This type of information could be very useful in our on-going efforts to study stroke -- the primary goals of LSU Medical Center's six research teams housed in the Biomedical Research Institute."

Biomedical Research Foundation President Jack Sharp described the project as a prime example of the value of collaborative efforts by local and area researchers. "Though the amount of the grant is relatively small, how it came to be and what it could become are important. In bringing together the resources of the Medical School, BRF and Centenary, the potential of this technology become realizable. And this type of collaborative activity will be a key component in the success of the planned research park in Shreveport."

Dr. Rodriguez's one-year project addressed the first stage of development that will demonstrate the feasibility of the technique. The work was performed at Centenary, where laser, machine shop, and electronic facilities are already available to develop prototype instrumentation.

Upon successful completion of the first stage of development, the project will then seek to validate the technique with the aid of other forms of tomography available at the Medical Center and Biomedical Research Institute.

FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH

HAROLD CHRISTENSEN, Professor of Economics and Director of the Economic Education Center, and student P. Monique Cousins, presented "Porsche: An Estimate of United States Import Demand Through the First Fifty Years" at the Southwestern Society of Economists.

BARBARA DAVIS, Associate Professor of Accounting, and students Amanda Ellis and Frank Stevenson made a presentation on "Medicare Managed Care: Past, Present, and Future" at Association of Management.

JEFFERSON HENDRICKS, Associate Professor of English, organized panels on "Postmodernism and Contemporary Narrative" composed of Curtis Martin, Jamie Prince, and Scott Townsend; and "Starship Troopers: Neo-Fascist Ideology or Postmodern Irony?" composed of Tony Frederick, Austin Lee, and Jamie Prince at the Louisiana Philological Association.

ELIZABETH RANKIN, Associate Professor of Economics, and student James T. Moore co-presented a paper on "The Effects of Promotional Giveaways on Ticket Sales at Professional Sports Events" at the Southwestern Association of Economists.

THOMAS TICICH, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, and student Brock Stevens developed a poster presentation on "Optical and Microscopy Investigations of Soot Structure Alterations by Laser-Induced Incandescence" at the American Chemical Society Meeting.

INDEX

Aizawa, Kenneth 10, 12
Alexander, Bryan 9, 10
Allen, Bruce 8, 15, 19
Barrett, Mary 12, 18, 19
Bieler, David 15
Blakeney, Ernest 12
Bukoff Ronald 10, 12
Buseick, Robert 8, 15
Carson, Leta 8, 12
Christensen, Harold 10, 12, 22
Clark, Stephen 12, 15
Cox, Hughes 10, 12, 18
Davis, Barbara 10, 12, 22
Demerath, Loren 12
English, Horace 8
Fell, Katherine 10, 19
Fleck, Earl 6
Gruettner, Mark 13, 18
Grunes, Rodney 7, 9, 15, 17
Guenthner, Sammye 13
Hendricks, Jefferson 22
Hernandez, Sue 15
Hoaas, David 10
Johnson, Joyce 10, 13, 15, 18
Kress, Dana 15, 16, 19
Labor, Earle 13
Leuck, Beth 13
Lisantti, Jerry 10, 13
Mason, Helen 12, 13
Newtown, George 9, 11, 13, 18
Odom, Gale 8, 15, 17
Peek, John 9, 13
Penuel, Arnold 11
Rankin, Elizabeth 11, 12, 22
Richardson, Barrie 14, 15
Rodriguez, Juan 14, 20-21
Schlatter, Mark 11, 14, 18
Shelburne, Steven 17
Shepherd, Samuel 9, 15
Smith, Ross 8, 14, 18, 22
Stone, Thomas 8, 11, 15, 17
Thorn, Julia 17, 18, 19
Ticich, Thomas 11, 14, 15, 22
Trahan, Jeff 14
Vetter, Scott 14
Wilcox, Don 13
Yaz, Yvonne 11, 14, 15
Zeltzer, Mark 8, 15

1·8·2·5

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